hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 7450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: May 3, 2004

(Lawrence E. Russ)

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Group Art Unit: 2613

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-176

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Motoki Kato

Application No.: 09/872,274

Filed: June 1, 2001

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR INFORMATION PROCESSING

: Group Art Unit: 2613

: Examiner: B. M. Senfi

RECEIVED

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

MAY 0 7 2004

Technology Center 2600

MS AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

the Office Action dated response to In February 2, 2004, finally rejecting claims 1-27, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: